

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 26-33 were presented for examination and were rejected.

In response, the applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 17, 28. Support for the amendments can be found in paragraphs [0037]-[0039] of the Specification. The applicants submit that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 18 has been left unchanged. The applicants traverse its rejection.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection of Claims 1-7, 10-16, and 27-33

Claims 1-7, 10-16, and 27-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Schneider, U.S. Application Number 2004/0250138 (hereinafter "Schneider") in view of M. McCulligh, U.S. Patent 6,643,784 (hereinafter "McCulligh").

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method for generating a password for a user, comprising:
presenting said user with a plurality of hints;
receiving a user selection of one of said hints;
automatically generating a password based on said selected hint,
wherein said password is generated by using a letter dictionary that provides rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters; and
presenting said selected hint to said user to reinforce said generated password, wherein said selected hint is a poem and said password has a similar rhyme and meter as said selected hint.
(emphasis supplied)

Neither Schneider nor McCulligh teach or suggest, alone or in combination with the other references, what is recited in amended claim 1 — namely, ***generating a password by using a letter dictionary that provides rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters.***

Claim 1 provides a technique for password generation. The technique of claim 1 can be used in situations where a user connects to an electronic authentication system for the purposes of obtaining a password. When the user connects to the authentication system, the authentication system will generate the password automatically.

In accordance with claim 1, the password will be generated by using a letter dictionary. The letter dictionary, as claim 1 recites, is a dictionary that provides rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters. An example of a letter dictionary is depicted in Figure 8 of the Application.

For instance, a password can be generated that has rhythm classified as Iambic Tetrameter. "The password may be generated using a letter dictionary that gives rhyme and meter for each keyboard character. " (See paragraph [0038] of the Specification Publication.)

McCulligh and Schneider, in contrast, mention nothing about the ***use of a letter dictionary that provides rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters.***

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over McCulligh and Schneider.

Because claims 2-16 depend on claim 1, they are likewise allowable. The recitation of additional limitations in them provides further grounds for patentability.

Independent claim 27, as amended, recites:

27. A apparatus for generating a password for a user, comprising:
a memory; and at least one processor, coupled to the memory,
operative to:
present said user with a plurality of hints;
receive a user selection of one of said hints;
automatically generate a password based on said selected hint,
wherein said password is generated by using a ***letter dictionary that provides rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters;*** and
present said selected hint to said user to reinforce said generated password wherein said selected hint is a poem and said password has a similar rhyme and meter as said selected hint.
(emphasis supplied)

For the same reasons as for claim 1, the applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over McCulligh and Schneider.

Because claims 28-33, depend on claim 27, the applicants submit that they are likewise allowable over McCulligh and Schneider. The recitation of additional limitations in them provides further ground for their patentability.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection of Claims 8, 9, 17, and 18

Claim 8, 9, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Schneider U.S. Application Number 2005/0250138 (hereinafter "Schneider") in view of M. Serpa, U.S. Patent 6,954,862 (hereinafter "Serpa").

Because claims 8 and 9 depend on claim 1, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of them is overcome

With regard to the rejection of claim 17, the applicants submit that the amendment to it overcomes the rejection.

With regard to the rejection of claim 18, the applicants traverse.

Claim 17, as amended, recites:

17. A method for generating a password for a user, comprising:
presenting said user with a plurality of poems;
receiving a user selection of one of said poems; and
automatically generating a password based on said selected poem,
said generated password having a similar rhyme and meter as said selected poem; and
wherein said password is ***generated by using a letter dictionary which that provides rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters.***
(emphasis added)

Neither Serpin nor Schneider and Serpa teach or suggest what claim 17 recites; namely, the generation of a password by ***using a letter dictionary which provides a rhyme and meter for one or more keyboard characters.***

For the same reasons as for claims 1 and 27, and because Serpa fails to cure the deficiencies of Schneider and the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 17 is overcome.

Claim 18 recites:

18. A method for generating a password for a user, comprising:
presenting said user with a plurality of jokes each containing one of a number of different variations for **one or more variable words or phrases** included in each joke;
receiving a user selection of one of said jokes; and
automatically generating a password based on said selected joke, said generated password including **said variations for said one or more variable words or phrases**.
(emphasis added)

For the same reasons as for claims 1, 17, 19, and 27 the applicants respectfully submit that Schneider **does not** teach or suggest, alone or in combination with the other references, **the use of plurality of hints each of which contains a number of different variations for one or more variable words or phrases**.

The method of claim 18 recognizes that hints which are used for the generation of passwords can retain their primary meaning even when words in them are varied. In particular, the present invention identifies which words in a hint can be varied and uses them as a basis for the generation of a password. (See claim 1 "*generated password including said variations for said one or more variable words...*").

As paragraph [0046] explains at length, a joke can have different variations. In one variations the characters can be a "goat" and a "railroad tie" and in another variation, the characters can be a "zebra" and a "rock." The joke discussed in paragraph [0046] preserves its comical impact regardless of which set of characters is used in it.

In accordance with claim 1, a user is provided with different variations of the same joke. Each joke variation comprises different variable words. For example, in one variation the main character can be a goat. And in another variation the main character can be a zebra.

The user selects one of the provided joke variations as a password hint. In response to the selection, the present invention automatically generates a password which contains the variable words that are contained in the selected hint. For example, if one of the variable words in the selected hint is "zebra," the generated password will contain the word "zebra" in it.

Schneider and Serpa, in contrast, do not teach such an arrangement. They do not teach presenting the user with hints that contain **variable words**. And they do not teach the generation of passwords which contain the **variable words** of the presented hints.

For these reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is allowable over Schneider and Serpa.

Request for Reconsideration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Having responded to each and every ground for objection and rejection in the last Office action, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.111 and request that the Examiner allow all of the pending claims and pass the application to issue.

If there are remaining issues, the applicants respectfully request that Examiner telephone the applicants' attorney so that those issues can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,
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